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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/031,864 | 06/05/2002 | Jakob Maier JR. | GKS CASE 373 | 8541 |

7590 08/05/2004
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| EXAMINER |
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LOFDAHL, JORDAN M

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3644

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,864

Applicant(s)

MAIER, JAKOB

Examiner

Jordan Lofdahl

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,9,11,12,17,19-21,23,24,29-32,34 and 35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,13-16,18 and 25-28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,9,11,12,17,19-21,23,24,29-32,34 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to all the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 5, 13-16, 18 and 25-28 have withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 6/28/04.

Applicant elected Species A which corresponds to Figures 2, 3, 4 and 4A.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The specification refers to parts 12 and 13 as "beadlike, enlarged portions, which increase the stiffness". The claims refer to these parts as "reinforcement members". Examiner does not believe that the claimed subject matter to the "reinforcement members" (parts 12 and 13) has proper antecedent basis in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Art Unit: 3644

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 17, 19-21, 23, 24, 30, 32, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Babson et al. (1329452).

As to claims 1 and 17, Babson et al. discloses a first end portion (10); a second end portion (13); a center piece (11) between the end portions having a substantially constant interior diameter and reinforcement elements (corrugation); the center piece capable of having a greater flexibility than the end portions (fig. 1).

As to claims 6 and 19, disclosed are the reinforcement elements comprising spaced apart elevations of material enclosing the center piece.

As to claims 7 and 20, disclosed is the wall thickness of the elevations greater than the wall thickness between the elevations (fig. 1).

As to claims 9 and 21, disclosed are the ends having a reinforcement members (10 and the area where (11 and 13) overlap; fig. 1); each member comprising an enlarged portion of material having a wall thickness which exceeds the wall thickness of the respective residual area.

As to claims 11 and 23, disclosed is a material which inherently not give off secretion to the milk.

As to claims 12 and 24, disclosed is the wall thickness of the centerpiece decreases from the first and second end in direction to the middle (fig. 1).

As to claim 17, disclosed is a first and second end portion and a center piece (11) disposed between the ends

As to claims 30 and 32, disclosed is a hose adapted to be stretched and compressed in the longitudinal direction.

As to claims 34 and 35, disclosed are reinforcement elements (corrugation ridges).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Babson et al. (1329452) and further in view of Heimberger (5125909).

As to claims 29 and 31, not disclosed is a plastic hose. Heimberger, however, discloses a plastic hose. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to comprise the hose of Babson et al. with the plastic material of Heimberger, to create a more flexible hose to prevent tearing and cracking.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3644

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jordan Lofdahl whose telephone number is 703.605.1217. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone can be reached on 703.306.4198. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jml


MICHAEL CARONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER